



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/46/705
2 December 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 97

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES,
QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND
HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Rosemary SEMAFUMU (Uganda)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".
2. The Committee considered the item at its 34th to 39th, 43rd and 45th meetings, from 7 to 12 and on 18 and 20 November 1991. An account of the Committee's discussions is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/46/SR.34-39, 43 and 45).
3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter VII, section H (A/46/3 and Add.1); 1/

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/46/3/Rev.1).

(b) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/46/12 2/ and Add.1); 3/

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (A/46/371);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti (A/46/428);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad (A/46/429);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia (A/46/430);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of refugees in the Sudan (A/46/431);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons (A/46/432);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi (A/46/433);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa (A/46/434);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Central American Refugees (A/46/435);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees in Somalia (A/46/471);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the capacity, experience and coordination arrangements in the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance (A/46/568);

(n) Report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons (A/46/612);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows (A/46/134 and Corr.1);

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/46/12).

3/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/46/12/Add.1).

(p) Letter dated 11 April 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/139);

(q) Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/323);

(r) Letter dated 5 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/344);

(s) Letter dated 27 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/501/Rev.1).

4. At the 34th meeting, on 7 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship made introductory statements (see A/C.3/46/SR.34). At the 39th meeting, on 12 November, the Director of the Division of External Relations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, made concluding remarks (see A/C.3/46/SR.39).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.27

5. At the 43rd meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Austria, on behalf of Austria, Ethiopia, Hungary, the Philippines and Singapore, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/46/L.27) entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

6. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Austria orally revised operative paragraph 2 by replacing the word "regular" by the words "resumed organizational".

7. At its 45th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.27 as orally revised (see para. 18, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.28

8. At its 43rd meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America,

introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/46/L.28) entitled "Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees". Subsequently, Pakistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the 45th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.28 (see para. 18, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.29

10. At its 43rd meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Guatemala, on behalf of Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/46/L.29) entitled "International Conference on Central American Refugees".

11. At the 45th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.29 (see para. 18, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.30

12. At the 43rd meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Austria, on behalf of Algeria, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/46/L.30) entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa". Subsequently, Bolivia, Cameroon, India, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Oman, Pakistan and Suriname joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised operative paragraph 11, which read:

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on all aspects of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution under the sub-item 'Questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons',

to read as follows:

"Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session under the sub-item 'Question relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons' and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992."

14. At the 45th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Austria, on behalf of the sponsors, revised the thirty-seventh preambular paragraph by deleting the words "and displaced persons" after the words "these refugees".

15. At the 45th meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/46/L.30 as orally revised (see para. 18, draft resolution IV).

16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Djibouti.

17. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the reports of the Secretary-General contained in documents A/46/612, A/46/568 and A/46/134 and Corr.1 (see para. 19, draft decision).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

18. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1991/1 of 23 May 1991 and 1991/63 of 26 July 1991 on the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the note verbale dated 27 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations ^{4/} and the note verbale dated 23 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the

^{4/} E/1990/121.

United Nations 5/ addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

1. Decides to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from forty-four to forty-six States;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to elect the two additional members at its resumed organizational session in 1992.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of her Office, 6/ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner on the work of its forty-second session, 7/ and taking note of the statement made by the High Commissioner on 7 November 1991, 8/

Recalling its resolutions 45/140 A and B of 14 December 1990,

Reaffirming the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's international protection function and the need for States to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this primary and essential responsibility,

Welcoming the High Commissioner's commitment to address refugee situations through a threefold strategy consisting of the enhancement of the emergency preparedness and response mechanisms of the Office of the High Commissioner, the concerted pursuit of the preferred durable solution of voluntary repatriation and the promotion of solutions through preventive measures,

5/ E/1991/101 and Corr.1.

6/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/46/12).

7/ A/46/12/Add.1.

8/ See A/C.3/46/SR.34.

Noting with satisfaction that one hundred and nine States are now parties to the 1951 Convention 9/ and/or the 1967 Protocol 10/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Welcoming the valuable support extended by Governments to the Office of the High Commissioner in carrying out its humanitarian tasks,

Bearing in mind that the relationship between human rights and refugee flows merits further consideration,

Noting with concern that, despite developments that offer hope for solutions to refugee problems, the number of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner has increased and their protection continues to be seriously jeopardized in many situations as a result of non-admission, expulsion, refoulement and unjustified detention, as well as other threats to their physical security, dignity and well-being, and lack of respect for fundamental human rights,

Welcoming the commitment of the Office of the High Commissioner to improving the situation of refugee women and children, who represent the majority of refugee populations and who, in many cases, are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection, as well as their psychological and material well-being,

Conscious of the link between international protection and resettlement as an instrument of protection and of the need for the international community to continue to provide adequate resettlement places for those refugees for whom no other durable solution is in sight,

Commending those States that, despite severe economic and development challenges of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner into their territories, and emphasizing the need to share the burden of these States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance, including development-oriented assistance,

Commending the Office of the High Commissioner and its staff for the dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and paying special tribute to those staff members who have lost their lives in the course of their duties,

1. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental nature of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide international protection and the need for States to cooperate fully with the

9/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

10/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

Office in fulfilling this function, in particular by acceding to and fully and effectively implementing the relevant international and regional refugee instruments;

2. Recognizes the need to keep issues related to refugees, asylum-seekers and other migratory flows firmly on the international political agenda, especially the question of solution-oriented approaches to deal with today's refugee problems;

3. Recognizes also that the current size and complexity of the world refugee situation require vigorous promotion of existing protection principles, as well as full and open debate on new directions for protection and on further development of the law, paying particular attention to the responsibilities of States to resolve refugee situations and, especially with respect to countries of origin, to address and try to eradicate causes of refugee flows;

4. Calls upon all States to refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular by returning or expelling refugees and asylum-seekers contrary to the fundamental prohibitions against these practices, and urges States to ensure fair and efficient determination procedures and to continue to give humane treatment and to grant asylum to refugees;

5. Condemns all violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular those perpetrated by military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements and forced recruitment into armed forces;

6. Recognizes that growing misuse of asylum procedures could compromise the institution of asylum and the maintenance of fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures, and endorses the general conclusion on international protection, in particular in relation to refugee status determination, adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its forty-second session; ^{11/}

7. Endorses the conclusion on refugee children adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-second session, ^{12/} including the decision to establish a new post of coordinator of refugee children within the Office of the High Commissioner;

8. Commends the High Commissioner on the Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women, ^{13/} which provide a practical means of ensuring the

^{11/} A/46/12/Add.1, para. 21.

^{12/} Ibid., para. 25.

^{13/} Executive Committee document EC/SCP/67, annex.

protection of refugee women, including through the delivery of appropriate assistance programmes, and calls upon States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other organizations, whether governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental, to implement the guidelines;

9. Stresses the overriding importance of attaining durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements, and calls upon the High Commissioner actively to explore new options for preventive strategies that are consistent with protection principles, as well as ways in which State responsibility and burden-sharing mechanisms might be strengthened;

10. Underlines strongly State responsibility, particularly as it relates to the countries of origin, including addressing root causes, facilitating voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return, in accordance with international practice, of their nationals who are not refugees;

11. Urges all States and relevant organizations to support the Office of the High Commissioner in its efforts to search for durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office, primarily through voluntary repatriation;

12. Acknowledges that at present there are important opportunities for resolving long-standing refugee situations and welcomes the intention of the High Commissioner to reinforce the efforts of her Office to encourage and promote voluntary repatriation of refugees and their safe reintegration in the countries of origin;

13. Recognizes the importance of pursuing resettlement as a last resort where no other durable solutions are available and the need for States to respond rapidly and with flexibility to evolving situations where resettlement is required to ensure the protection of the refugees concerned;

14. Welcomes the initiatives taken by the High Commissioner to enhance the capacity of her Office to respond to emergencies and, taking into account current deliberations on a United Nations system-wide response, encourages the High Commissioner to continue to work closely with other United Nations agencies, as well as other organizations, whether governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental, to assure a coordinated and effective response to emergency humanitarian situations of a complex and protracted nature, and calls upon Governments to assist in implementing these initiatives;

15. Endorses the decision of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-second session related to inter-agency cooperation and calls upon the High Commissioner to sustain her efforts in this area so that the multifaceted needs of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and their host communities might be better addressed, in particular through development initiatives by relevant United Nations agencies and programmes;

16. Expresses deep appreciation for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular those developing countries that, despite limited resources, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers on a permanent or temporary basis;

17. Urges the international community, including non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, to continue to assist the countries referred to in paragraph 16 above and the High Commissioner in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that the care for refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

18. Calls upon all Governments and other donors to contribute to the High Commissioner's programmes and, taking into account the need to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

International Conference on Central American Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 42/110 of 7 December 1987, 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/118 of 8 December 1988, 44/139 of 15 December 1989 and 45/141 of 14 December 1990,

Recalling also that the International Conference on Central American Refugees is related to the initiative of the Central American Presidents expressed in the procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting in August 1987, 14/ as indicated in the San Salvador communiqué on the Central American refugees, of 9 September 1988, 15/

Recognizing the importance and validity of the Declaration and the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, adopted at the International Conference on Central American

14/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085.

15/ A/C.3/43/6, annex.

Refugees held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989 16/ and the Declaration of the First International Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee established by the Conference, 17/ especially the framework contained in the Concerted Plan of Action,

Noting with satisfaction the concerted efforts being made by the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico to find lasting solutions to the problems of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in implementing the aims and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action as an integral part of efforts to achieve a stable and lasting peace and democratization of the region,

Welcoming the substantial progress in the process of pacification in El Salvador, whereby efforts are being made to consult with all national sectors, the peace dialogue in Guatemala and the progress being made in Nicaragua in the implementation of its national reconciliation policy and in assistance to the uprooted populations, which continues to encourage movements of voluntary repatriation and internal settlement of national displaced persons,

Recognizing the substantial support that, inter alia, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the community of cooperation personnel and national and international non-governmental organizations have given the Conference since its inception,

Convinced that peace, liberty, development and democracy are essential in order to solve the problem of uprooted populations in the region,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, 18/ and the report submitted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; 19/

2. Welcomes with satisfaction the outcome of the meeting of the Follow-Up Committee established by the Conference, held at San José, Costa Rica, on 2 and 3 April 1991, at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 17 to 19 June 1991, at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 13 and 14 August 1991 and at Managua, Nicaragua, on 25 and 26 October 1991;

16/ See A/44/527 and Corr.1 and 2, annex.

17/ CIREFCA/CS/90/10.

18/ A/46/435.

19/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/46/12), paras. 146-150; and A/46/12/Add.1, para. 28.

3. Urges the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico to continue to implement and follow up the programmes benefiting refugees, returnees and displaced persons in accordance with their national development plans;

4. Reaffirms its conviction that the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their countries or communities of origin is one of the most positive signs of the progress of peace in the region;

5. Expresses its conviction that the processes of return to and reintegration in the countries and communities of origin should take place in conditions of dignity and security and with the necessary guarantees to ensure that the affected populations are included in the respective national development plans;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and other organs of the United Nations system to continue their support for and involvement in the planning, implementation, evaluation and follow-up of the programmes generated through the Conference process;

7. Welcomes with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Repatriated Persons, and urges the Central American countries to continue their determined support to ensure that the Programme achieves its aims;

8. Appeals to the international community, particularly to the community of cooperation personnel, to continue and to strengthen their support for the Conference and to continue complying with the financing offered so as to be able effectively to achieve the goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action, and to consolidate the progress made thus far in humanitarian assistance to refugees and repatriated and displaced persons of the region;

9. Supports the particular attention that the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico are giving to the particular needs of refugee, repatriated and displaced women and children and to the measures being adopted to protect and improve the environment and to preserve ethnic and cultural values;

10. Also supports the decision of the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico to convene the second international meeting of the Follow-Up Committee established by the Conference at San Salvador in March 1992, for the purpose of evaluating the progress made thus far in the implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action and to define ways of improving its application;

11. Supports the initiative of the Central American Governments, Belize and Mexico to extend the duration of the International Conference process as long as may be necessary, in light of the new needs that have emerged following the changes in the region;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced
persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/139 of 14 December 1990 on emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons, as well as its resolutions 45/154 on assistance to refugees in Somalia, 45/156 on assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad, 45/157 on humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, 45/159 on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi, 45/160 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan, 45/161 on assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia, 45/171 on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa, all of 18 December 1990, and resolution 45/137 on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa of 14 December 1990,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General 20/ and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 21/

Bearing in mind that the affected countries are least developed countries,

Convinced of the necessity to strengthen the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation and the overall coordination of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the prospects for voluntary repatriation and durable solutions across the continent,

Recognizing the need for States of origin to create conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation,

Noting with appreciation the commitment of the countries concerned to do their utmost to facilitate the provision of assistance to the affected populations and to take the necessary measures in this regard,

Realizing the importance of assisting the host countries, in particular those countries that have been hosting refugees for a longer time, to remedy environmental deterioration and the negative impact on public services and the development process,

20/ A/46/371, A/46/428, A/46/429, A/46/430, A/46/431, A/46/432, A/46/433, A/46/434 and A/46/471.

21/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 and addendum (A/46/12 and Add.1).

Recognizing the catalytic role the High Commissioner plays, together with the international community and development agencies, in the promotion of humanitarian aid and development with a view to finding durable and lasting solutions for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Deeply concerned about the critical humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa and other African countries caused by drought, conflict and population movements,

Welcoming the establishment by the Secretary-General of an office for a Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa and its efforts to coordinate needs assessment and to mobilize resources,

Taking into account the consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa,

Bearing in mind the necessity to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in the Horn of Africa, in particular the supply of food, medicine and health care to refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Deeply concerned by the incessant inflow of externally displaced persons and refugees, which has added considerably to the burden already being carried by Djibouti in respect of refugees in the country, whose combined number now stands at over 90,000,

Noting that according to the situation report No. 1 of 1 October 1991 issued by the office for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, in Djibouti, the ratio of refugees to nationals is nearing one to four, thereby posing a considerable burden on the country in terms of security, a drain on economic resources and pressure on social services, given the alarming number of externally displaced persons and refugees and the size of the country and its population,

Bearing in mind that the majority of externally displaced persons and refugees in Djibouti are concentrated in the country's main urban centres, with all the implications that this may pose,

Recognizing the influxes of refugees and voluntary returnees and the presence of displaced persons in Ethiopia,

Deeply concerned about the massive presence of refugees, voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Ethiopia and the enormous burden this has placed on the country's infrastructure and meagre resources,

Deeply concerned also about the grave consequences this has entailed for Ethiopia's capability to grapple with the effects of the prolonged drought and rebuild the country's economy,

Aware of the heavy burden placed on the Government of Ethiopia and of the need for immediate and adequate assistance to refugees, voluntary returnees, displaced persons and victims of natural disasters,

Aware of the burden placed on the Government of Kenya because of the recent influx of refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia,

Recognizing the efforts that have been made by the Government of Kenya with the assistance of the Office of the High Commissioner and bilateral donors to deal with this emergency situation, and the need for further assistance to over 48,000 refugees still in Kenya,

Deeply concerned about the tragic impact that the civil war in Somalia has had on the lives of its people, affecting 4 to 5 million people who are either refugees in neighbouring countries or internally displaced and are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the High Commissioner's initial repatriation plan and aware that thousands of Somali refugees, who are at present in other neighbouring countries, as well as internally displaced persons who wish to return to their homes of origin, require a planned and integrated international assistance programme designed to cover their basic needs,

Equally concerned about the plight of Ethiopian refugees remaining in Somalia who urgently need international assistance for their voluntary repatriation to their country of origin,

Deeply convinced that it is urgently necessary that humanitarian assistance to Somali refugees, returnees and displaced persons be mobilized and delivered without delay in view of the gravity of the situation,

Noting with appreciation that the Sudan is hosting, over an extended period of time, more than 780,000 refugees, and received an additional influx of nearly 100,000 Ethiopian refugees in May 1991, 22/ notwithstanding the consequent heavy burden shouldered by the people and the Government of the Sudan and in spite of the prevailing economic difficulties of the country,

Recognizing the efforts of the Government of the Sudan, the Government of Ethiopia and the Office of the High Commissioner for organizing the voluntary repatriation of the Ethiopian refugees despite the serious financial and logistical problems,

Emphasizing the need to help refugees by accomplishing the projects for refugee aid and development in refugee-affected areas of the Sudan in accordance with resolution 45/160,

Considering that the repatriation and reinsertion of returnees and relocation of displaced persons is aggravated by natural disasters and poses serious humanitarian, social and economic problems to the Government of Chad,

22/ See A/46/431.

Cognizant of the appeal to Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide the necessary assistance to the Government of Chad to alleviate its problems and improve its abilities to implement the programme of repatriation, reinsertion and relocation of voluntary returnees and displaced persons,

Noting with appreciation the continuing mediatory efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to find a peaceful solution to the Liberian crisis and the important decisions reached at the meeting held at Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, on 29 October 1991, which could lead to a final settlement,

Bearing in mind the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons, particularly the need to continue emergency relief operations pending a comprehensive needs-assessment mission to all parts of Liberia, which will result in a unified appeal and a concerted plan of action for the relief and rehabilitation of Liberia,

Recognizing the increasing number of voluntary returnees to Liberia and the enormous burden this has placed on the country's infrastructure and fragile economy,

Concerned that despite the efforts made to provide the necessary material and financial assistance for the Liberian refugees and relocation of displaced persons, the situation still remains precarious and has serious implications for the long-term development process of Liberia, as well as for those West African countries hosting Liberian refugees,

Recognizing the heavy burden placed on the people and Government of Malawi and the sacrifices they are making in caring for the refugees, given the country's limited social services and infrastructure, and the need for adequate international assistance to enable them to continue their efforts to provide assistance to the refugees,

Gravely concerned about the continuing serious social and economic impact of the massive presence of these refugees, as well as its far-reaching consequences for the country's long-term development process,

Bearing in mind the findings and recommendations of the inter-agency mission to Malawi, particularly on the need to strengthen the country's socio-economic infrastructure in order to enable it to provide for the immediate humanitarian relief requirements of the refugees, as well as the long-term national development needs of the country,

Recognizing the need to view refugee-related development projects within local and national development plans,

Convinced that there is an urgent need for the international community to extend maximum and concerted assistance to southern African countries

sheltering refugees, returnees and displaced persons and also to highlight the plight of these persons,

Welcoming with appreciation the fact that the High Commissioner has continued in 1990 and 1991 to organize and implement programmes for educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees in the southern African region,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the cooperation that they have extended to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on matters concerning the welfare of student refugees,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General 1/ and the High Commissioner for Refugees; 2/

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance in mitigating the plight of the large number of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

3. Commends the Governments concerned for providing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other measures taken in order to find appropriate and lasting solutions;

4. Expresses deep concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of the massive presence of refugees and displaced persons in the countries concerned and the implications for their long-term socio-economic development;

5. Expresses the hope that additional resources will be made available for general refugee programmes to keep pace with refugee needs;

6. Appeals to Member States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate material, financial and technical assistance for relief and rehabilitation programmes for the large number of refugees, voluntary returnees and displaced persons and victims of natural disasters;

7. Calls upon the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to continue their efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize adequate financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in rural and urban areas affected by the presence of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

9. Also requests the High Commissioner to continue her efforts with the appropriate United Nations agencies and intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to consolidate and increase essential services to refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

10. Further requests the Secretary-General to study and assess the environmental socio-economic impact of the prolonged presence of refugees in the host countries with a view to rehabilitating those areas;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, under the sub-item "Questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons", and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992.

* * *

19. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION I

The General Assembly takes note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to Iraqi refugees and displaced persons (A/46/612);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the capacity, experience and coordination arrangements in the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance (A/46/568);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the coordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows (A/46/134 and Corr.1).
